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Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Carlos D. Sorreta (Philippines)

I. Introduction

1. The item entitled "Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly:

"(a) Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa;

"(b) United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific;

"(c) United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa;

"(d) Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons;

"(e) United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament"

was included in the provisional agenda of the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolutions 53/78 A, B, C, D and F of 4 December 1998.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 17 September 1999, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 2nd meeting, on 23 September 1999, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 64, 65 and 67 to 85, which was held at the 3rd to 12th meetings, from 11 to 15 and from 18 to 20 October (see A/C.1/54/PV.3-12). Thematic discussions on the items were held, and draft resolutions were introduced and considered, at the 13th to 19th meetings, on 21 and 22 and from 25 to 29 October (see A/C.1/54/PV.13-19). Action on all draft resolutions



was taken at the 20th to 27th meetings, on 1, 2, 4, 5, 8 and 9 November (see A/C.1/54/PV.20-27).

4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

- (a) Report of the Conference on Disarmament;¹
- (b) Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (A/54/255 and Add.1);
- (c) Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (A/54/310 and Add.1);
- (d) Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (A/54/332 and Add.1);
- (e) Report of the Secretary-General on regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa (A/54/364);
- (f) Note by the Secretary-General on United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament (A/54/324);
- (g) Letter dated 5 August 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the report of the Tokyo Forum for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (A/54/205-S/1999/853);
- (h) Letter dated 2 August 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Cameroon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the report of the Subregional High-level Seminar on the examination and implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (A/54/209-S/1999/859);
- (i) Letter dated 2 August 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Cameroon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the eleventh ministerial meeting of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa (A/54/210-S/1999/860);
- (j) Letter dated 15 October 1999 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the communiqué of the meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in New York on 23 September 1999 (A/54/469-S/1999/1063).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.1/54/L.5

5. At the 13th meeting, on 21 October, the representative of Cameroon introduced a draft resolution entitled "Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa" (A/C.1/54/L.5). Subsequently, Angola, Burundi, Chad, the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Guinea, Mali and the Niger joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/54/27).*

6. At the 24th meeting, on 5 November, the Committee had before it a statement of the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/54/L.5, submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly (A/C.1/54/L.53). The Secretary of the Committee also made a statement concerning the programme budget implications of the draft resolution (see A/C.1/54/PV.24).

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/54/L.5 without a vote (see para. 18, draft resolution A).

B. Draft resolution A/C.1/54/L.10

8. At the 19th meeting, on 29 October, the representative of Burkina Faso, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States, introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa" (A/C.1/54/L.10).

9. At its 21st meeting, on 1 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/54/L.10 without a vote (see para. 18, draft resolution B).

C. Draft resolution A/C.1/54/L.14

10. At the 18th meeting, on 28 October, the representative of Nepal, on behalf of Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, and Viet Nam, introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific" (A/C.1/54/L.14). Subsequently, Fiji, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Pakistan, Thailand and Uzbekistan joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, and Bangladesh withdrew its sponsorship.

11. At its 21st meeting, on 1 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/54/L.14 without a vote (see para. 18, draft resolution C).

D. Draft resolution A/C.1/54/L.33

12. At the 15th meeting, on 25 October, the representative of India, on behalf of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Kenya, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mexico, Nepal and Viet Nam, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons" (A/C.1/54/L.33). Subsequently, Burkina Faso, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Fiji, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kenya, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Namibia, Nigeria and the Sudan joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

13. At its 23rd meeting, on 4 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/54/L.33 by a recorded vote of 89 to 40, with 18 abstentions (see para. 18, draft resolution D). The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Algeria, Angola, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic

of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, China, Cyprus, Georgia, Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, San Marino, Solomon Islands, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

E. Draft resolution A/C.1/54/L.49

14. At the 17th meeting, on 27 October, the representative of South Africa, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament" (A/C.1/54/L.49).

15. At its 21st meeting, on 1 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/54/L.49 without a vote (see para. 18, draft resolution E).

III. Recommendations of the First Committee

16. At the 19th meeting, on 29 October, the representative of Peru, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean" (A/C.1/54/L.51).

17. At its 21st meeting, on 1 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/54/L.51 without a vote (see para. 18, draft resolution F).

18. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution A
Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations
Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the purposes and principles of the United Nations and its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its resolutions 43/78 H and 43/85 of 7 December 1988, 44/21 of 15 November 1989, 45/58 M of 4 December 1990, 46/37 B of 6 December 1991, 47/53 F of 15 December 1992, 48/76 A of 16 December 1993, 49/76 C of 15 December 1994, 50/71 B of 12 December 1995, 51/46 C of 10 December 1996, 52/39 B of 9 December 1997 and 53/78 A of 4 December 1998,

Considering the importance and effectiveness of confidence-building measures taken at the initiative and with the participation of all States concerned and taking into account the specific characteristics of each region, since such measures can contribute to regional stability and to international security,

Convinced that the resources released by disarmament, including regional disarmament, can be devoted to economic and social development and to the protection of the environment for the benefit of all peoples, in particular those of the developing countries,

Recalling the guidelines for general and complete disarmament adopted at its tenth special session, the first special session devoted to disarmament,

Convinced that development can be achieved only in a climate of peace, security and mutual confidence both within and among States,

Bearing in mind the establishment by the Secretary-General on 28 May 1992 of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, the purpose of which is to encourage arms limitation, disarmament, non-proliferation and development in the subregion,

Recalling the Brazzaville Declaration on Cooperation for Peace and Security in Central Africa,² the Bata Declaration for the Promotion of Lasting Democracy, Peace and Development in Central Africa,³ and the Yaoundé Declaration on Peace, Security and Stability in Central Africa,⁴

Bearing in mind resolutions 1196 (1998) and 1197 (1998), adopted by the Security Council on 16 and 18 September 1998 respectively, following its consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa,⁵

Emphasizing the need to strengthen the capacity for conflict prevention and peacekeeping in Africa,

² A/50/474, annex I.

³ A/53/258-S/1998/763, annex II, appendix I; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-third Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1998*, document S/1998/763.

⁴ A/53/868-S/1999/303, annex II.

⁵ A/52/871-S/1998/318; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-third Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1998*, document S/1998/318.

Recalling the decision of the fourth meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee in favour of establishing, under the auspices of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, a subregional centre for human rights and democracy in Central Africa,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on regional confidence-building measures,⁶ which deals with the activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa in the period since the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 53/78 A;

2. *Reaffirms its support* for efforts aimed at promoting confidence-building measures at regional and subregional levels in order to ease tensions and conflicts in the subregion and to further peace, stability and sustainable development in Central Africa;

3. *Also reaffirms its support* for the programme of work of the Standing Advisory Committee adopted at the organizational meeting of the Committee, held at Yaoundé from 27 to 31 July 1992;

4. *Notes with satisfaction* the progress made by the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee in implementing the programme of activities for the period 1998-1999, in particular by:

(a) Holding a joint meeting of ministers of defence and of the interior at Libreville from 28 to 30 April 1998 on questions of security in Central Africa;

(b) Organizing the Subregional Conference on Democratic Institutions and Peace in Central Africa, at Bata, Equatorial Guinea, from 18 to 21 May 1998;

(c) Holding a Seminar on the Training of Trainers in Practical Disarmament Measures for the Consolidation of Peace for Senior Military and Civilian Officials at Yaoundé, from 27 to 31 July 1998;

(d) Organizing the Subregional High-level Seminar on the Examination and Implementation of the Recommendations Contained in the Report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the Causes of Conflict and the Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa, at Yaoundé, from 19 to 21 July 1999;

5. *Emphasizes* the importance of providing the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee with the essential support they need to carry out the full programme of activities which they adopted at the ninth and tenth ministerial meetings, in particular the organization of joint military exercises to simulate peacekeeping operations;

6. *Welcomes* the creation of a mechanism for the promotion, maintenance and consolidation of peace and security in Central Africa, to be known as the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa, by the Summit Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Central African countries, held at Yaoundé on 25 February 1999;

7. *Also welcomes* the decision of the Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of Central African States, meeting at Malabo on 24 June 1999, to establish a network of parliamentarians from the Community with a view to the eventual creation of a parliament of the Community;

8. *Welcomes with satisfaction* the progress made in the establishment of an early warning mechanism in Central Africa which will serve, on the one hand, as an instrument for analysing and monitoring political situations in the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee with a view to preventing the outbreak of future armed conflicts and, on the other hand, as a technical body through which the member States will carry out the

⁶ A/54/364.

work programme of the Committee, adopted at its organizational meeting held at Yaoundé in 1992;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to lend their support to the establishment of a subregional centre for human rights and democracy in Central Africa;

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, pursuant to Security Council resolution 1197 (1998), to provide the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee with the necessary support in making operational the early warning mechanism and the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa;

11. *Thanks* the Secretary-General for having established the Trust Fund for the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa;

12. *Appeals* to Member States and to governmental and non-governmental organizations to make additional voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the implementation of the programme of work of the Standing Advisory Committee, in particular the activities referred to in paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 above;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide assistance to the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee to ensure that they are able to carry on with their efforts;

14. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

15. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa".

Draft resolution B

United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa

The General Assembly,

Mindful of the provisions of Article 11, paragraph 1, of the Charter of the United Nations stipulating that a function of the General Assembly is to consider the general principles of cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security, including the principles governing disarmament and arms limitation,

Recalling its resolutions 40/151 G of 16 December 1985, 41/60 D of 3 December 1986, 42/39 J of 30 November 1987 and 43/76 D of 7 December 1988 on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, and its resolutions 46/36 F of 6 December 1991 and 47/52 G of 9 December 1992 on regional disarmament, including confidence-building measures,

Recalling also its resolutions 48/76 E of 16 December 1993, 49/76 D of 15 December 1994, 50/71 C of 12 December 1995, 51/46 E of 10 December 1996, 52/220 of 22 December 1997 and 53/78 C of 4 December 1998,

Aware of the widespread support for the revitalization of the Regional Centre and the important role that the Centre can play in the present context in promoting confidence-building and arms limitation measures at the regional level, thereby promoting progress in the area of sustainable development,

Taking into account the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa,⁷

Bearing in mind the efforts undertaken in the framework of the revitalization of the activities of the Regional Centre for the mobilization of the resources necessary for its operational costs,

Taking into account the need to establish close cooperation between the Regional Centre and the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution of the Organization of African Unity, in conformity with the decisions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-fifth ordinary session, held at Algiers from 12 to 14 July 1999,⁸

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General,⁹ and commends the activities carried out by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, in particular in support of the efforts made by the African States in the areas of peace and security;

2. *Reaffirms* its strong support for the revitalization of the Regional Centre, and emphasizes the need to provide it with resources to enable it to strengthen its activities and carry out its programmes;

3. *Appeals once again* to all States, as well as to international governmental organizations and foundations, to make voluntary contributions in order to strengthen the programmes of activities of the Regional Centre and facilitate the implementation thereof;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide all necessary support, within existing resources, to the Regional Centre for better achievements and results;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to facilitate the establishment of close cooperation between the Regional Centre and the Organization of African Unity, in particular in the area of peace, security and development, and to continue to assist the Director of the Regional Centre in his efforts to stabilize the financial situation of the Centre and revitalize its activities;

6. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa".

Draft resolution C

United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 42/39 D of 30 November 1987 and 44/117 F of 15 December 1989, by which it established the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and renamed it the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, with headquarters at Kathmandu and with the mandate

⁷ A/54/871-S/1998/318; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-third Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1998*, document S/1998/318.

⁸ See A/54/424, annex II.

⁹ A/54/332 and Add.1.

of providing, on request, substantive support for the initiatives and other activities mutually agreed upon by the Member States of the Asia-Pacific region for the implementation of measures for peace and disarmament, through appropriate utilization of available resources,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General,¹⁰ in which he expresses his belief that the mandate of the Regional Centre remains valid and that the Centre could be a useful instrument for fostering a climate of cooperation in the post-cold-war era,

Noting that trends in the post-cold-war era have emphasized the function of the Regional Centre in assisting Member States as they deal with new security concerns and disarmament issues emerging in the region,

Commending the useful activities carried out by the Regional Centre in encouraging regional and subregional dialogue for the enhancement of openness, transparency and confidence-building, as well as the promotion of disarmament and security through the organization of regional meetings, which has come to be widely known within the Asia-Pacific region as the "Kathmandu process",

Expressing its appreciation to the Regional Centre for its organization of substantive regional meetings at Nagasaki in 1998 and at Kathmandu, Kyoto and Ulaanbaatar in 1999,

Welcoming the idea of the possible creation of an educational and training programme for peace and disarmament in Asia and the Pacific for young people with different backgrounds, to be financed from voluntary contributions,

Noting the important role of the Regional Centre in assisting region-specific initiatives of Member States, including its assistance in the work related to the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia,

Appreciating highly the important role that Nepal has played as the host nation of the headquarters of the Regional Centre,

1. *Reaffirms* its strong support for the continuing operation and further strengthening of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific;
2. *Underscores* the importance of the Kathmandu process as a powerful vehicle for the development of the practice of region-wide security and disarmament dialogue;
3. *Expresses its appreciation* for the continuing political support and financial contributions to the Regional Centre, which are essential for its continued operation;
4. *Appeals* to Member States, in particular those within the Asia-Pacific region, as well as to international governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations, to make voluntary contributions, the only resources of the Regional Centre, to strengthen the programme of activities of the Regional Centre and the implementation thereof;
5. *Requests* the Secretary-General, taking note of paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 49/76 D of 15 December 1994, to provide all necessary support, within existing resources, to the Regional Centre in carrying out its programme of activities;
6. *Invites* the Secretary-General to initiate consultations with the Government of the Kingdom of Nepal as well as with other Member States concerned and interested organizations to assess the possibility of enabling the Centre to operate effectively from Kathmandu;

¹⁰ A/54/255 and Add.1.

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific".

Draft resolution D

Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons

The General Assembly,

Convinced that the use of nuclear weapons poses the most serious threat to the survival of mankind,

Bearing in mind the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 8 July 1996 on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*,¹¹

Convinced that a multilateral, universal and binding agreement prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons would contribute to the elimination of the nuclear threat and to the climate for negotiations leading to the ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons, thereby strengthening international peace and security,

Conscious that some steps taken by the Russian Federation and the United States of America towards a reduction of their nuclear weapons and the improvement in the international climate can contribute towards the goal of the complete elimination of nuclear weapons,

Recalling that, in paragraph 58 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,¹² it is stated that all States should actively participate in efforts to bring about conditions in international relations among States in which a code of peaceful conduct of nations in international affairs could be agreed upon and that would preclude the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Reaffirming that any use of nuclear weapons would be a violation of the Charter of the United Nations and a crime against humanity, as declared in its resolutions 1653 (XVI) of 24 November 1961, 33/71 B of 14 December 1978, 34/83 G of 11 December 1979, 35/152 D of 12 December 1980 and 36/92 I of 9 December 1981,

Determined to achieve an international convention prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons, leading to their ultimate destruction,

Stressing that an international convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons would be an important step in a phased programme towards the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, with a specified framework of time,

Noting with regret that the Conference on Disarmament, during its 1999 session, was unable to undertake negotiations on this subject as called for in General Assembly resolution 53/78 D of 4 December 1998,

1. *Reiterates its request* to the Conference on Disarmament to commence negotiations, in order to reach agreement on an international convention prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances;

¹¹ A/51/218, annex.

¹² Resolution S-10/2.

2. *Requests* the Conference on Disarmament to report to the General Assembly on the results of those negotiations.

Draft resolution E

United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 53/76 F of 4 December 1998 regarding the maintenance and revitalization of the three United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament,

Recalling also the reports of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa,¹³ the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific¹⁴ and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean,¹⁵ and welcoming the appointment by the Secretary-General of the Director of the Centre for Africa and the Director of the Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Reaffirming its decision, taken in 1982 at its twelfth special session, to establish the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme, the purpose of which is to inform, educate and generate public understanding and support for the objectives of the United Nations in the field of arms control and disarmament,¹⁶

Bearing in mind its resolutions 40/151 G of 16 December 1985, 41/60 J of 3 December 1986, 42/39 D of 30 November 1987 and 44/117 F of 15 December 1989 on the regional centres for peace and disarmament in Nepal, Peru and Togo,

Recognizing that the changes that have taken place in the world have created new opportunities as well as posed new challenges for the pursuit of disarmament and, in this regard, bearing in mind that the regional centres for peace and disarmament can contribute substantially to understanding and cooperation among the States in each particular region in the areas of peace, disarmament and development,

Noting that in paragraph 146 of the Final Document of the Twelfth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Durban, South Africa, from 29 August to 3 September 1998, the heads of State or Government welcomed the decision adopted by the General Assembly on maintaining and revitalizing the three regional centres for peace and disarmament in Nepal, Peru and Togo,¹⁷

1. *Reiterates* the importance of the United Nations activities at the regional level to increase the stability and security of its Member States, which could be promoted in a substantive manner by the maintenance and revitalization of the three regional centres for peace and disarmament;

2. *Reaffirms* that, in order to achieve positive results, it is useful for the three regional centres to carry out dissemination and educational programmes that promote regional peace and security aimed at changing basic attitudes with respect to peace and

¹³ A/54/332 and Add. 1.

¹⁴ A/54/255 and Add. 1.

¹⁵ A/54/310 and Add. 1.

¹⁶ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twelfth Special Session, Plenary Meetings*, 1st meeting, paras. 110 and 111.

¹⁷ A/53/667-S/1998/1071, annex I; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-third Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1998*, document S/1998/1071.

security and disarmament so as to support the achievement of the principles and purposes of the United Nations;

3. *Appeals* to Member States in each region and those that are able to do so, as well as to international governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations, to make voluntary contributions to the regional centres in their respective regions to strengthen their programmes of activities and the implementation thereof;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide all necessary support, within existing resources, to the regional centres in carrying out their programmes of activities;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session an item entitled "United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament".

Draft resolution F **United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and** **Development in Latin America and the Caribbean**

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 41/60 J of 3 December 1986, 42/39 K of 30 November 1987 and 43/76 H of 7 December 1988 on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, with headquarters in Lima,

Recalling also its resolutions 46/37 F of 9 December 1991, 48/76 E of 16 December 1993, 49/76 D of 15 December 1994, 50/71 C of 12 December 1995, 52/220 of 22 December 1997 and 53/78 F of 4 December 1998,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General,¹⁸ in which he expresses his belief that the Regional Centre can make an important contribution to the exchange of information on peace, disarmament and development issues among Governments, non-governmental organizations, industry and various sectors of civil society in the region,

Noting that security and disarmament issues have always been recognized as transcendent topics in Latin America and the Caribbean, the first inhabited region in the world to be declared a nuclear-weapon-free zone,

Welcoming the revitalization of the Centre, the efforts made by the Government of Peru to that end and the appointment of the Director of the Centre by the Secretary-General,

Keeping in mind the important role the Centre can play in promoting confidence-building measures, arms control and limitation, disarmament and development at the regional level,

Expressing its appreciation to the Centre for organizing the international workshop on the theme "Illicit trafficking in small arms: Latin American and Caribbean issues", successfully held in Lima from 23 to 25 June 1999,¹⁹

¹⁸ A/54/310 and Add. 1.

¹⁹ A/54/310, paras. 12-13.

Bearing in mind the importance of information, research, education and training for peace, disarmament and development in order to achieve understanding and cooperation among States,

Recognizing the need to provide the three United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament with sufficient financial resources for the planning and implementation of their programmes of activities,

1. *Reiterates* its strong support of the role of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in the promotion of United Nations activities at the regional level to increase peace, stability, security and development among its Member States;

2. *Expresses its satisfaction* with the reinitiation of the activities of the Regional Centre, with headquarters in Lima;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* for the political support and financial contributions to the Regional Centre, which are essential for its continued operation;

4. *Urges* all the States of the region to make greater use of the potential of the Centre to meet the current challenges facing the international community, with a view to fulfilling the aims of the Charter of the United Nations regarding peace, disarmament and development;

5. *Appeals* to Member States, in particular those within the Latin American and Caribbean region, as well as to international governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations, to make voluntary contributions to strengthen the programme of activities of the Regional Centre and the implementation thereof;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Centre with all necessary support, within existing resources, so that it may carry out its programme of activities and attain better results;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session an item entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean".



General Assembly

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Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 78

Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Carlos D. Sorreta (Philippines)

I. Introduction

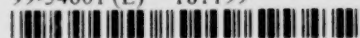
1. The item entitled "Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session:

- "(a) Report of the Disarmament Commission;
- "(b) Report of the Conference on Disarmament;
- "(c) Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters;
- "(d) United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research"

was included in the provisional agenda of the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolutions 53/79 A and B of 4 December 1998, 38/183 O of 20 December 1983 and 39/148 of 17 December 1984.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 17 September 1999, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 2nd meeting, on 23 September 1999, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 64, 65 and 67 to 85, which was held at the 3rd to 12th meetings, from 11 to 15 and from 18 to 20 October (see A/C.1/54/PV.3-12). Thematic discussions on the items were held, and draft resolutions were introduced and considered at the 13th to 19th meetings, on 21



and 22 and from 25 to 29 October (see A/C.1/54/PV.13-19). Action on all draft resolutions was taken at the 20th to 27th meetings, on 1, 2, 4, 5, 8 and 9 November (see A/C.1/54/PV.20-27).

4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

- (a) Report of the Conference on Disarmament;¹
- (b) Report of the Disarmament Commission;²
- (c) Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters (A/54/218);
- (d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the reports of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (A/54/201);
- (e) Letter dated 5 August 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the report of the Tokyo Forum for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (A/54/205-S/1999/853);
- (f) Letter dated 29 September 1999 from the Permanent Representatives of Brazil, Finland and Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Declaration of Rio de Janeiro and the priorities for action adopted during the first summit meeting of the Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union, held at Rio de Janeiro on 28 and 29 June 1999 (A/54/448);
- (g) Letter dated 15 October 1999 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the communiqué of the meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in New York on 23 September 1999 (A/54/469-S/1999/1063);
- (h) Letter dated 27 October 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Final Declaration of the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, held at Vienna from 6 to 8 October 1999 (A/54/514-S/1999/1102);
- (i) Letter dated 19 October 1999 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.1/54/8).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.1/54/L.3

5. At the 13th meeting, on 21 October, the representative of Mexico, on behalf of Croatia, Ecuador, Egypt, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Mali, Mexico, Mongolia, the Philippines, Portugal, Slovakia and Trinidad and Tobago introduced a draft resolution entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission" (A/C.1/54/L.3).

6. At its 21st meeting, on 1 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/54/L.3 without a vote (see para. 11, draft resolution A).

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/54/27).*

² *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 42 (A/54/42).

B. Draft resolution A/C.1/54/L.16

7. At the 17th meeting, on 27 October, the representative of Australia introduced a draft resolution entitled "Report of the Conference on Disarmament" (A/C.1/54/L.16).

8. At its 21st meeting, on 1 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/54/L.16 without a vote (see para. 11, draft resolution B).

C. Draft decision A/C.1/54/L.28

9. At the 21st meeting, on 1 November, the representative of France submitted a draft decision entitled "Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters" (A/C.1/54/L.28).

10. At its 24th meeting, on 5 November, the Committee adopted draft decision A/C.1/54/L.28 without a vote (see para. 12).

III. Recommendations of the First Committee

11. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Draft resolution A Report of the Disarmament Commission

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Disarmament Commission,³

Recalling its resolutions 47/54 A of 9 December 1992, 47/54 G of 8 April 1992, 48/77 A of 16 December 1993, 49/77 A of 15 December 1994, 50/72 D of 12 December 1995, 51/47 B of 10 December 1996, 52/40 B of 9 December 1997 and 53/79 A of 4 December 1998,

Considering the role that the Disarmament Commission has been called upon to play and the contribution that it should make in examining and submitting recommendations on various problems in the field of disarmament and in the promotion of the implementation of the relevant decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session,

Bearing in mind its decision 52/492 of 8 September 1998,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Disarmament Commission;³
2. *Commends* the Disarmament Commission for the successful conclusion of its consideration of the items entitled "The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned" and "Guidelines on conventional arms control/limitation and disarmament, with particular emphasis on consolidation of peace in the context of General Assembly resolution 51/45 N of 10 December 1996", and endorses the consensus texts adopted thereon;

³ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/54/42).

3. *Notes with regret* that the Commission was not able to reach a consensus on the item entitled "The fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament";

4. *Reaffirms* the importance of further enhancing the dialogue and cooperation among the First Committee, the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament;

5. *Also reaffirms* the role of the Disarmament Commission as the specialized, deliberative body within the United Nations multilateral disarmament machinery that allows for in-depth deliberations on specific disarmament issues, leading to the submission of concrete recommendations on those issues;

6. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to continue its work in accordance with its mandate, as set forth in paragraph 118 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,⁴ and with paragraph 3 of Assembly resolution 37/78 H of 9 December 1982, and to that end to make every effort to achieve specific recommendations on the items of its agenda, taking into account the adopted "Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission";⁵

7. *Recommends* that the Disarmament Commission, at its 1999 organizational session, adopt the following items for consideration at its 2000 substantive session:

(a) [To be considered]⁶

(b) [To be considered]⁶

8. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to meet for a period not exceeding three weeks during 2000 and to submit a substantive report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to the Disarmament Commission the annual report of the Conference on Disarmament,⁷ together with all the official records of the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly relating to disarmament matters, and to render all assistance that the Commission may require for implementing the present resolution;

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure full provision to the Disarmament Commission and its subsidiary bodies of interpretation and translation facilities in the official languages and to assign, as a matter of priority, all the necessary resources and services, including verbatim records, to that end;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission".

Draft resolution B

Report of the Conference on Disarmament

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Conference on Disarmament,⁸

⁴ Resolution S-10/2.

⁵ A/CN.10/137.

⁶ The substantive items will be decided at the organizational session of the Disarmament Commission.

⁷ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/54/27)*.

⁸ *Ibid.*

Convinced that the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community, has the primary role in substantive negotiations on priority questions of disarmament,

Recognizing, in this respect, the need for additional impetus to multilateral negotiations with the aim of reaching concrete agreements,

Noting that the Conference on Disarmament has a number of urgent and important issues to negotiate,

1. *Reaffirms* the role of the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community;

2. *Urges* the Conference on Disarmament to fulfil that role in the light of the evolving international situation, with a view to making early substantive progress on priority items of its agenda;

3. *Welcomes* the decision of the Conference on Disarmament on 5 August 1999 to admit five new members,⁹ and notes that the Conference recognizes the importance of continuing consultations on the question of the expansion of its membership;

4. *Also welcomes* the strong collective interest of the Conference on Disarmament in commencing substantive work as soon as possible during its 2000 session;

5. *Further welcomes* the undertaking by the current President of the Conference on Disarmament to conduct consultations jointly with the incoming President during the inter-sessional period to try to achieve this goal, as expressed in his statement contained in paragraph 38 of the report of the Conference;⁷

6. *Encourages* the Conference on Disarmament to continue the ongoing review of its agenda and methods of work;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure the provision to the Conference on Disarmament of adequate administrative, substantive and conference support services;

8. *Requests* the Conference on Disarmament to submit a report on its work to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Report of the Conference on Disarmament".

12. The First Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters

The General Assembly,

Recalling paragraph 12⁴ of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, by which it requested the Secretary-General to set up an advisory board of eminent persons to advise him on various aspects of studies to be made under the auspices

⁹ Ibid., para 16.

of the United Nations in the field of disarmament and arms limitation, including a programme of such studies,¹⁰

Recalling also section III of its resolution 37/99 K of 13 December 1982, by which it requested the Secretary-General to revive the Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies in line with his note of 26 October 1982¹¹ and to entrust it with the functions listed therein,

Noting with appreciation the work of the Advisory Board and its suggestions on ways to improve its functioning and its mandate, as set out in paragraphs 44 and 45 of the report of the Secretary-General,¹²

Noting the endorsement by the Secretary-General in his report¹³ of the Advisory Board's recommendation to change the language in the mandate of the Board so as to reflect its actual functions as they have been performed for more than a decade,

Decides to request the Secretary-General to adjust the language in the mandate of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters as set out in paragraph 45 of the report of the Secretary-General.¹³

¹⁰ Resolution S-10/2.

¹¹ A/37/550. In his note, the Secretary-General described the situation of the Board in 1982 and recommended appropriate language for the mandate, which has been used since then.

¹² A/54/218

¹³ *Ibid.*, para. 46.



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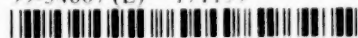
The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Carlos D. Sorreta (Philippines)

I. Introduction

1. The item entitled "The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East" was included in the provisional agenda of the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 53/80 of 4 December 1998.
2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 17 September 1999, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.
3. At its 2nd meeting, on 23 September 1999, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 64, 65 and 67 to 85, which was held at the 3rd to 12th meetings, from 11 to 15 and from 18 to 20 October (see A/C.1/54/PV.3-12). Thematic discussions on the items were held, and draft resolutions were introduced and considered, at the 13th to 19th meetings, on 21 and 22 and from 25 to 29 October (see A/C.1/54/PV.13-19). Action on all draft resolutions was taken at the 20th to 27th meetings, on 1, 2, 4, 5, 8 and 9 November (see A/C.1/54/PV.20-27).
4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:
 - (a) Report of the Secretary-General (A/54/459);
 - (b) Letter dated 5 August 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the report of the Tokyo Forum for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (A/54/205-S/1999/853);
 - (c) Letter dated 15 October 1999 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the communiqué of the meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Movement



of Non-Aligned Countries, held in New York on 23 September 1999 (A/54/469-S/1999/1063);

(d) Letter dated 27 October 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Final Declaration of the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, held at Vienna from 6 to 8 October 1999 (A/54/514-S/1999/1102).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.1/54/L.8/Rev.1

5. At the 16th meeting, on 26 October, the representative of Egypt, on behalf of States Members of the United Nations that are members of the League of Arab States, introduced a draft resolution entitled "The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East" (A/C.1/54/L.8).

6. At the 23rd meeting, on 4 November, the representative of Egypt, on behalf of the original sponsors, introduced a revised draft resolution entitled "The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East" (A/C.1/54/L.8/Rev.1), in operative paragraph 1 of which the words "unsafeguarded nuclear materials and nuclear facilities" were replaced by the words "unsafeguarded nuclear facilities".

7. At its 25th meeting, on 8 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/54/L.8/Rev.1 by a recorded vote of 125 to 3, with 11 abstentions (see para. 8). The voting was as follows:¹

In favour:

Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Hungary, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia.

Against:

Israel, Micronesia (Federated States of), United States of America.

¹ The delegations of Benin, Guyana and Suriname subsequently indicated that they had intended to vote in favour.

Abstaining:

Barbados, Canada, Iceland, India, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Marshall Islands, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Trinidad and Tobago.

III. Recommendation of the First Committee

8. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind its relevant resolutions,

Taking note of the relevant resolutions adopted by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the latest of which is resolution GC(43)RES/23 adopted on 1 October 1999,

Cognizant that the proliferation of nuclear weapons in the region of the Middle East would pose a serious threat to international peace and security,

Mindful of the immediate need to place all nuclear facilities in the region of the Middle East under full-scope safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency,

Recalling the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons on 11 May 1995,² in which the Conference noted with concern the continued existence in the Middle East of unsafeguarded nuclear facilities, reaffirmed the importance of the early realization of universal adherence to the Treaty³ and called upon all States in the Middle East that had not yet done so, without exception, to accede to the Treaty as soon as possible and to place all their nuclear facilities under full-scope International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards,

Recalling also the decision on principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons on 11 May 1995,² in which the Conference urged universal adherence to the Treaty as an urgent priority and called upon all States not yet parties to the Treaty to accede to it at the earliest date, particularly those States that operate unsafeguarded nuclear facilities,

Noting that, since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 51/48 of 10 December 1996, Israel remains the only State in the Middle East that has not yet become party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

Concerned about the threats posed by the proliferation of nuclear weapons to the security and stability of the Middle East region,

Stressing the importance of taking confidence-building measures, in particular the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, in order to enhance peace and security in the region and to consolidate the global non-proliferation regime,

² See 1995 Review and Extension Conference to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document, Part I (NPT/CONF.1995/32 (Part I)), annex.

³ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 729, No. 10485.

Noting the adoption of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty⁴ and its signature by 155 States, including a number of States in the region,

1. *Calls upon* the only State in the region that is not party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons³ to accede to the Treaty without further delay and not to develop, produce, test or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons, and to renounce possession of nuclear weapons, and to place all its unsafeguarded nuclear facilities under full-scope International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards as an important confidence-building measure among all States of the region and as a step towards enhancing peace and security;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

3. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East".

⁴ See resolution 50/245.

**General Assembly**

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Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 80

**Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of
Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be
Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects****Report of the First Committee**

Rapporteur: Mr. Carlos D. Sorreta (Philippines)

I. Introduction

1. The item entitled "Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects" was included in the provisional agenda of the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 53/81 of 4 December 1998.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 17 September 1999, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 2nd meeting, on 23 September 1999, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 64, 65 and 67 to 85, which was held at the 3rd to 12th meetings, from 11 to 15 and from 18 to 20 October (see A/C.1/54/PV.3-12). Thematic discussions on the items were held, and draft resolutions were introduced and considered, at the 13th to 19th meetings, on 21 and 22 and from 25 to 29 October (see A/C.1/54/PV.13-19). Action on all draft resolutions was taken at the 20th to 27th meetings, on 1, 2, 4, 5, 8 and 9 November (see A/C.1/54/PV.20-27).

4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General (A/54/162);
- (b) Letter dated 25 March 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/54/75-S/1999/345);



(c) Letter dated 5 August 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the report of the Tokyo Forum for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (A/54/205-S/1999/853);

(d) Letter dated 15 October 1999 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the communiqué of the meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in New York on 23 September 1999 (A/54/469-S/1999/1063).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.1/54/L.52

5. At the 19th meeting, on 29 October, the representative of Sweden, on behalf of Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, Mongolia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Uruguay, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects" (A/C.1/54/L.52). Subsequently, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, El Salvador, Estonia, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Latvia and Malta joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

6. The Committee had before it a statement of the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/54/L.52 submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly (A/C.1/54/L.54).

7. At its 23rd meeting, on 4 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/54/L.52 without a vote (see para. 8).

III. Recommendation of the First Committee

8. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 53/81 of 4 December 1998 and previous resolutions referring to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects,¹

¹ See *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, vol. 5, 1980 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.X.4), appendix VII.

Recalling with satisfaction the adoption, on 10 October 1980, of the Convention, together with the Protocol on Non-Detectable Fragments (Protocol I),¹ the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II)¹ and the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Incendiary Weapons (Protocol III),¹ which entered into force on 2 December 1983,

Also recalling with satisfaction the adoption by the Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, on 13 October 1995 of the Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons (Protocol IV),² and on 3 May 1996 of the amended Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II),³

Recalling that the States parties at the Review Conference declared their commitment to keeping the provisions of Protocol II under review in order to ensure that the concerns regarding the weapons it covers are addressed, and that they would encourage efforts of the United Nations and other organizations to address all problems of landmines,

Recalling also the role played by the International Committee of the Red Cross in the elaboration of the Convention and the Protocols thereto,

Welcoming the additional ratifications and acceptances of or accessions to the Convention, as well as the ratifications and acceptances of or accessions to the amended Protocol II and Protocol IV,

Noting that, in conformity with article 8 of the Convention, conferences may be convened to examine amendments to the Convention or to any of the Protocols thereto, to examine additional protocols concerning other categories of conventional weapons not covered by existing Protocols or to review the scope and application of the Convention and the Protocols thereto and to examine any proposed amendments or additional protocols,

Welcoming the decision of the Review Conference in its Final Declaration⁴ adopted on 3 May 1996 to convene a Review Conference no later than 2001;

Noting that, in accordance with article 13 of the amended Protocol II, a conference of States parties to that Protocol shall be held annually for the purpose of consultations and cooperation on all issues relating to the Protocol,

Noting that the provisional rules of procedure of the first annual conference of the States parties to amended Protocol II provide for the invitation of States not parties to the Protocol, the International Committee of the Red Cross and interested non-governmental organizations to take part in the conference,

I

1. *Expresses its satisfaction* that the Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons (Protocol IV)² entered into force on 30 July 1998, commends it to all States with a view to achieving the widest possible adherence to this instrument at an early date and calls, in particular, upon all States parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects¹ that have not yet done so to express their consent to be bound by the Protocol;

² CCW/CONF I/16 (Part I), annex A.

³ *Ibid.*, annex B.

⁴ *Ibid.*, annex C.

2. *Welcomes* the entry into force on 3 December 1998 of the amended Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II),³ and calls, in particular, upon all States parties to the Convention that have not yet done so to express their consent to be bound by the Protocol;

3. *Notes* the convening, from 15 to 17 December 1999, of the first annual conference of States parties to amended Protocol II, in accordance with article 13 thereof, and welcomes in this context the successful preparatory meeting held by the States parties on 25 and 26 May 1999;

II

1. *Calls upon* all States parties that have not yet done so to notify the Secretary-General, in his capacity as depositary of the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects¹ and the Protocols thereto, of their consent to be bound by the Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons (Protocol IV),² and by the amended Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II);³

2. *Welcomes* the convening, from 15 to 17 December 1999, of the first annual conference of States parties to amended Protocol II, in accordance with article 13 thereof;

3. *Calls upon* all States parties to amended Protocol II to address at the conference, *inter alia*, the issue of holding the second annual conference in 2000;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to render the necessary assistance and to provide such services as may be required for the second annual conference of States parties to amended Protocol II and for its preparatory committee;

III

1. *Recalls* the decision of States parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects¹ to convene the next review conference no later than 2001, preceded by the preparatory committee;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to render the necessary assistance and to provide such services, including summary records, as may be required for the second Review Conference of the States parties to the Convention and its preparatory committee;

3. *Urgently calls upon* all States that have not yet done so to take all measures to become parties, as soon as possible, to the Convention and its Protocols, and in particular to the amended Protocol on Prohibitions or Restriction on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II),³ with a view to achieving the widest possible adherence to this instrument at an early date, and calls upon successor States to take appropriate measures so that ultimately adherence to these instruments will be universal;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in his capacity as depositary of the Convention and the Protocols thereto, to continue to inform the General Assembly periodically of ratifications and acceptances of and accession to the Convention and its Protocols;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects".



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Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Carlos D. Sorreta (Philippines)

I. Introduction

1. The item entitled "Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region" was included in the provisional agenda of the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 53/82 of 4 December 1998.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 17 September 1999, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 2nd meeting, on 23 September 1999, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely items 64, 65 and 67 to 85, which was held at the 3rd to 12th meetings, from 11 to 15 and from 18 to 20 October (see A/C.1/54/PV.3-12). Thematic discussions on the items were held, and draft resolutions were introduced and considered, at the 13th to 19th meetings, on 21 and 22 and from 25 to 29 October (see A/C.1/54/PV.13-19). Action on all draft resolutions was taken at the 20th to 27th meetings, on 1, 2, 4, 5, 8 and 9 November (see A/C.1/54/PV.20-27).

4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General (A/54/261);
- (b) Letter dated 5 August 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the report of the Tokyo Forum for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (A/54/205-S/1999/853);
- (c) Letter dated 15 October 1999 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the communiqué of



the meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in New York on 23 September 1999 (A/54/469-S/1999/1063).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.1/54/L.15

5. At the 15th meeting, on 25 October, the representative of Algeria, on behalf of Algeria, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Luxembourg, Malta, Mauritania, Monaco, Morocco, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region" (A/C.1/54/L.15), subsequently, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Iceland joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

6. At its 22nd meeting, on 2 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/54/L.15 without a vote (see para. 7).

III. Recommendation of the First Committee

7. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the subject, including resolution 53/82 of 4 December 1998,

Reaffirming the primary role of the Mediterranean countries in strengthening and promoting peace, security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region,

Bearing in mind all the previous declarations and commitments, as well as all the initiatives taken by the riparian countries at the recent summits, ministerial meetings and various forums concerning the question of the Mediterranean region,

Recognizing the indivisible character of security in the Mediterranean and that the enhancement of cooperation among Mediterranean countries with a view to promoting the economic and social development of all peoples of the region will contribute significantly to stability, peace and security in the region,

Recognizing also the efforts made so far and the determination of the Mediterranean countries to intensify the process of dialogue and consultations with a view to resolving the problems existing in the Mediterranean region and to eliminating the causes of tension and the consequent threat to peace and security, and their growing awareness of the need for further joint efforts to strengthen economic, social, cultural and environmental cooperation in the region,

Recognizing further that prospects for closer Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in all spheres can be enhanced by positive developments worldwide, in particular in Europe, in the Maghreb and in the Middle East,

Reaffirming the responsibility of all States to contribute to the stability and prosperity of the Mediterranean region and their commitment to respect the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as the provisions of the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,¹

Noting the peace negotiations in the Middle East, which should be of a comprehensive nature and represent an appropriate framework for the peaceful settlement of contentious issues in the region,

Expressing its concern at the persistent tension and continuing military activities in parts of the Mediterranean that hinder efforts to strengthen security and cooperation in the region,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,²

1. *Reaffirms* that security in the Mediterranean is closely linked to European security as well as to international peace and security;

2. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the continuing efforts by Mediterranean countries to contribute actively to the elimination of all causes of tension in the region and to the promotion of just and lasting solutions to the persistent problems of the region through peaceful means, thus ensuring the withdrawal of foreign forces of occupation and respecting the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of all countries of the Mediterranean and the right of peoples to self-determination, and therefore calls for full adherence to the principles of non-interference, non-intervention, non-use of force or threat of use of force and the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, in accordance with the Charter and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

3. *Commends* the efforts by the Mediterranean countries in meeting common challenges through coordinated overall responses, based on a spirit of multilateral partnership, towards the general objective of turning the Mediterranean basin into an area of dialogue, exchanges and cooperation, guaranteeing peace, stability and prosperity, and encourages them to strengthen such efforts through, *inter alia*, a lasting multilateral and action-oriented cooperative dialogue among States of the region;

4. *Recognizes* that the elimination of the economic and social disparities in levels of development and other obstacles, as well as respect and greater understanding among cultures, in the Mediterranean area will contribute to enhancing peace, security and cooperation among Mediterranean countries through the existing forums;

5. *Calls upon* all States of the Mediterranean region that have not yet done so to adhere to all the multilaterally negotiated legal instruments related to the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, thus creating the necessary conditions for strengthening peace and cooperation in the region;

6. *Encourages* all States of the region to favour the necessary conditions for strengthening the confidence-building measures among them by promoting genuine openness and transparency on all military matters, by participating, *inter alia*, in the United Nations

¹ Resolution 2625 (XXV), annex.

² A/54/261.

system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures and by providing accurate data and information to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms;³

7. *Encourages* the Mediterranean countries to strengthen further their cooperation in combating terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, which poses a serious threat to peace, security and stability in the region and therefore to the improvement of the current political, economic and social situation;

8. *Invites* all States of the region to address, through various forms of cooperation, problems and threats posed to the region, such as terrorism, international crime and illicit arms transfers, as well as illicit drug production, consumption and trafficking, which jeopardize the friendly relations among States, hinder the development of international cooperation and result in the destruction of human rights, fundamental freedoms and the democratic basis of pluralistic society;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on means to strengthen security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region"

³ See resolution 46/36 L.